IMPORTS US $ Million

S.No.	Import Items	Value
1.	Petroleum, crude & products	8547.07
2.	Pearls, precious, semi precious stones	4276.20
3.	Gold & Silver	3636.78
4.	Machinery other than electrical	2222.65
5.	Electronic goods	2134.26
6.	Edible oils	1640.45
7.	Organic chemicals	1323.36
8.	Inorganic chemicals	1129.96
9.	Fertilizers manufactured	1004.99
10.	Coal, coke & briquettes	775.65

Figures in value terms have been given As different commodities have different units of measurement, it is not possible to compare quantities of various main items of exports and imports.

(c) and (d) Various measures have been taken by the Government from time to time to promote exports. Specific measures were taken in the export import policy announced on 31st April, 1999 for the year 1999-2000 for some major sectors which included lowering of threshold limit for Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme for chemicals and textiles sectors from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. One crore. Further, additional custom duty was not charged on import of capital goods under zero duty EPCG Scheme in marine and electronic sectors. For promotion of export of gems and jewellery some additional facilities were provided such as import of consumables required for the gems and jewellery industry was allowed to the extent of 1% of fob value of the exports of the previous year, diamond imprest licence for import of cut and polished diamonds was introduced.

Training for next Olympics

*692. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any formal training has started for the next Olympics;

(b) whether it is a fact that no serious effort has been made to get the best talent to represent India at the next Olympics;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the concerned authorities start the exercise in a leisurely way;

(d) to what extent this attitude has led to predictable failures at each and every Olympic games;

(e) whether any effort is being made to change the old pattern of selection and training of athletes for the next Olympics; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (f) The training of sports persons for major international events is an on-going process. The disciplines in which India is likely to achieve good results were identified and more concentrated inputs were given to these disciplines. These disciplines are Athletics, Boxing, Hockey (Men), Shooting, Tennis and Weightlifting (Women). Systematic approach has been adopted to select and train athletes and teams for participation in the Olympic Games by drawing Long Term Development Programmes (LTDP) to put in action a four year roll-on plan under which elite sports persons selected on the basis of their performance are put through scientifically designed continuous training programme.

In so far as selection of athletes and teams for participation in the forthcoming Olympic Games is concerned, it is contingent upon athletes and teams attaining the minimum qualifying standards which are set by the concerned International Federations.

The selected sport persons are also put in National Coaching Camps held at NIS, Patiala, Bangalore and other Centres where they are given specialized training by Indian and Foreign Coaches. Under the LTDP, foreign competition exposure is also provided to Indian prbables to gain experience by playing under different conditions and studying tactics adopted by their competitors. Assistance upto Rs. 5.00 lakhs is also being sanctioned to meritorious Sports persons and Athletes for advanced training, equipment and foreign exposures as a special dispensation.

The Monitoring of preparations of Indian Teams which participate in major international events such as Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games undertaken through meetings and interaction with National Sports Federations and IOA held from time to time and two

Committees. One Committee is under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister overseas overall preparations; a second Committee under the Chairmanship of Director General, Sports Authority of India monitors dicipline-wise preparations.

Implementation of Post based Rosters

*693. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DOPT has introduced "post based rosters' in place of "Vacancy based rosters' for implementing reserving system w.e.f. 2nd July, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether, while introducing post based rosters in place of Vacancy based rosters, the process of identifying excesses/shortages, if any, in Class I, II, III and IV category of services under her Ministry was undertaken as prescribed under para (5) of the DOPT O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2nd July 1997; and

(d) if so, the results of such exercise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The post based rosters were introduced keeping in view the fact that the reservation of jobs for Backward classes i.e. SCs/STs/OBCs should apply to posts and not to vacancies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As a result of implementation of post based rosters, the excesses and shortages of reserved categories could be identified by the Ministry in different categories of posts. This would help the Ministry to fill the prescribed percentage in the reserved categories, in future.

Greater Managerial Autonomy to PSUs

*694. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

'(a) whether Government propose to give greater managerial autonomy to PSUs as indicated by the Prime Minister at the Awards giving ceremony for Excellence for Public Sector Undertakings on April 1, 2000; and